Discontinuation of centrally assisted projects

†*102. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government are going to discontinue the projects being implemented with the Central assistance and those being run by the Central Government.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what would its likely impact on development of the country;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the targets fixed by Government have not been achieved, so far; and

(e) the number of projects which have not been completed as per its time schedule and budget provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) The Planning Commission has undertaken a review of the existing schemes (Both Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes) and subjected them to Zero-based Budgeting, retaining only those schemes in the Tenth Plan that are demonstrably essential. The exercise will help in rationalizing the schemes by making them more focused and streamline the delivery system to ensure that benefits reach the target group. Monitoring of various schemes vis-a-vis their targets is the responsibility of the concerned Ministry/Department and the data on this is not being maintained centrally in the Planning Commission. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation also regularly monitors the implementation of projects over Rs. 20 Crore each.

Aid to new Afghan regime

*103. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned a $ 200 million aid to the new Afghan regime;

(b) if so, on what terms and conditions; and

(c) what other steps have been taken to establish economic, trade and diplomatic relations with the new regime?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) India has historical ties of friendship and cooperation with Afghan people. As part of our continuing commitment to further strengthen our relationship, Government has proposed to cooperate with the Afghan Government in reconstruction and rehabilitation in post conflict Afghanistan in various areas. In this context, Government has announced a line of credit of US$ 100 million to be made available to the Afghan Government. The terms and conditions of the line of credit would be finalised in consultation with the Afghan Interim Administration.

Government has taken several measures for developing economic, trade and diplomatic relations with the Afghan Interim Administration. In addition to the line of credit of US$ 100 million, at the Tokyo Ministerial meeting on Reconstruction in Afghanistan, held on 21-22 January, 2002, an amount of US$ 1.5 million was also made available for immediate utilization by the Afghan Government. During the recently concluded visit of H.E Hamid Karzai, the Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee announced a grant of US$ 10 million for utilization by the Afghan Government. The Government, in consultation with the Afghan Interim Administration has agreed to cooperate in the areas of Education, Health, Information Technology, Public Transport, Energy and Training.

In terms of diplomatic presence, the Government established its liaison office in Kabul on 21st November 2001 and re-established the Embassy with effect from 22nd December, 2001 with the inauguration of the Afghan Interim Administration in Kabul.

Identification of BPL families in H.P.

*104. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the BPL families in Himachal Pradesh to be covered under the targeted PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether all of them have been given special ration cards; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.